



# Accrediting Commission for Schools

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## ACCREDITATION TERM EXPLANATION

### What term best supports the school's improvement needs?

- **A term of six years with a written progress report to the school's governing board on the major recommendations or critical areas listed in the Visiting Committee Report.** Upon review and formal acceptance by the board, the report will be filed with the WASC office.

**Interpretation:** The school's current situation based on the accreditation term factors (see Reference Card #5) provide compelling evidence that the school is a trustworthy place for learning and little, if any, additional support for the implementation, monitoring, and accomplishment of the schoolwide action plan by all stakeholders is needed.

- **A term of six years with a complete progress report on major recommendations or critical areas and a one-day, on-site review by a two-member committee to be completed not later than the third year of the six-year term.**

**Interpretation:** The school's current situation based on the accreditation term factors provides compelling evidence that the school needs additional support and feedback in meeting identified growth targets and areas that will strengthen student achievement and the school's program. This includes the engagement of all stakeholders in the implementation and accomplishment of the action plan.

**Note:** After the one-day, on-site review occurs, the review committee may recommend: a reaffirmation of the original term; an additional progress report and/or visit; a shortening of the accreditation term; or denial of accreditation.

- **A term of three years with a progress report on critical areas of follow-up and action plans, and a two-day revisit as a requisite to continued accreditation.**

**Interpretation:** The school's current situation based on the accreditation term factors provide compelling evidence that the school needs strong additional support, feedback, and encouragement in meeting identified growth targets and areas that will strengthen student achievement and the school's program. This includes the engagement of all stakeholders in the implementation and accomplishment of the action plan. Strengthening student achievement includes the demonstration that growth targets for student learning are being met.)

**Note:** After the revisit occurs, the revisit committee may recommend: a term extension of three years; an additional one-year term, at which time the school would be expected to prepare a progress report and host a one-day revisit; or denial of accreditation.

- **A term of one or two years with a complete progress report and a revisit to serve as a “warning”** that unless prompt attention is given to the major recommendations or critical areas accreditation may be denied.

**Interpretation:** The school’s current situation based on the accreditation term factors provide compelling evidence that the school needs extremely strong additional support, feedback, and encouragement in meeting identified growth targets and areas that will strengthen student achievement and the school’s program. This includes the engagement of all stakeholders in the implementation and accomplishment of the action plan.

**Note:** After the revisit occurs, the revisit committee may recommend: an additional one or two years, ultimately bringing the term up to three years, at which time the school will be expected to prepare a progress report and host a two-day visit; or denial of accreditation.

- **Denial of accreditation based on conditions** detailed in the Visiting Committee Report.

**Interpretation:** The school’s current situation based on accreditation term factors provide compelling evidence that the school is unable to meet identified growth targets and areas that will strengthen student achievement and the school’s program. This includes the engagement of all stakeholders in the implementation and accomplishment of the action plan. Any other term of accreditation is impossible because the school is not a trustworthy place for learning and the school is unable to accomplish, at this point in time, the required ongoing school improvement.

**Note:** After denial of accreditation, a school may correct the deficiencies and request to begin the accreditation process again. Such a request would require a school to have an initial visit and follow all initial visit procedures.